

Columbia River Recreation Spring Chinook Allocation

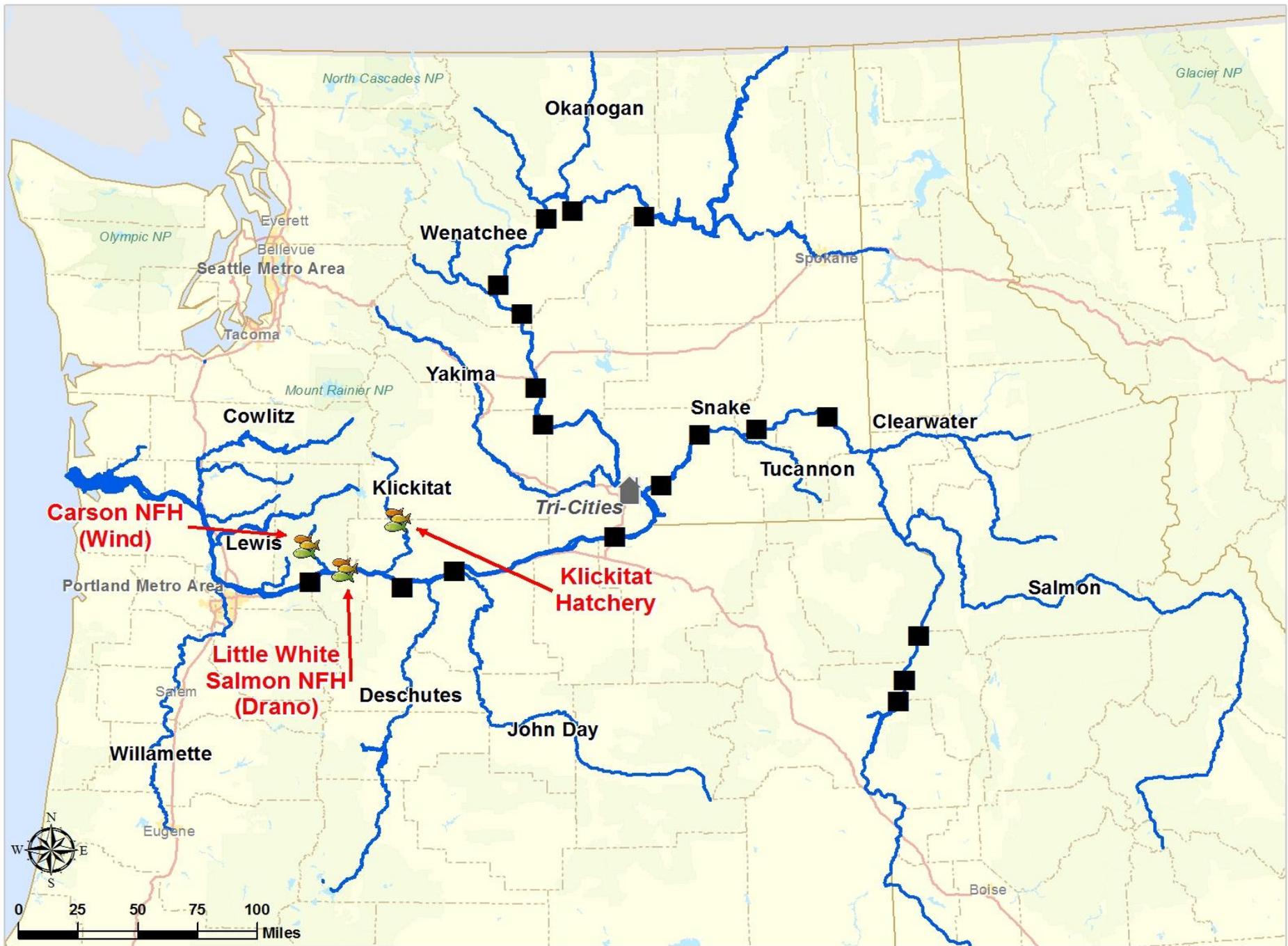


Historic Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Prior to 1977 upriver spring Chinook targeted
- 1978-2000 (avoid upriver spring Chinook)
 - Commercial fisheries ended March 10
 - Recreational fisheries ended March 31
 - All fisheries below mouth of the Willamette
- 1990s
 - ESA listings
 - *U.S. vs. Oregon* Agreements address ESA
 - Small run sizes
 - Little or no mainstem fishing in mid to late 1990s

Historic Spring Chinook Fisheries

- 2001 – New agreements, mass-marking, large upriver forecast
- Fisheries expanded in time and area
 - Fishing occurs in months of April-June
 - Area expanded above the Willamette and above Bonneville Dam Including Snake River



Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery Allocation

- Commission Policy calls for the Department to provide the Commission an annual briefing on the effectiveness of fishery management actions in meeting spring Chinook recreational fishery allocation objectives throughout the Columbia River basin.

Sport/Commercial Shares

- Commission Policy also progressively shifts overall upriver spring Chinook ESA allocation to the recreational fishery, increasing to 70% during 2014-16 and 80% beginning in 2017.

Harvest Sharing

- Commission Policy calls for the Columbia River spring Chinook recreational fishery allocation to be shared 75% below Bonneville Dam and 25% above Bonneville Dam.
- Above Bonneville Dam portion split is 40% Zone 6 and 60% in the lower Snake River.
- Sharing formula is based on percent of ESA impacts to wild Snake River and upper Columbia Spring Chinook as a result of catch and release mortality in selective fisheries, not on percent of harvested chinook.
- Final harvest is limited by balancing the catch with the allowed Treaty Tribe harvest.

Allowed and Actual Upriver Spring Chinook Harvest by Area

POST Season ALLOWED Catch Balance for Adult Upriver Spring Chinook in Non-Indian Fisheries *

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	12,057	6,494	4,454	2,439
SAF Commercial Winter/Spring	473	333	305	185
Commercial Total	12,530	6,827	4,759	2,624
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	16,996	12,649	11,260	6,168
Bonneville to McNary Rec	2,266	1,686	1,340	822
Snake River Spt/Wanapum Tribal	2,228	1,012	1,120	603
Recreational Total	21,490	15,347	13,720	7,593
Total allowed	34,020	22,174	18,479	10,217

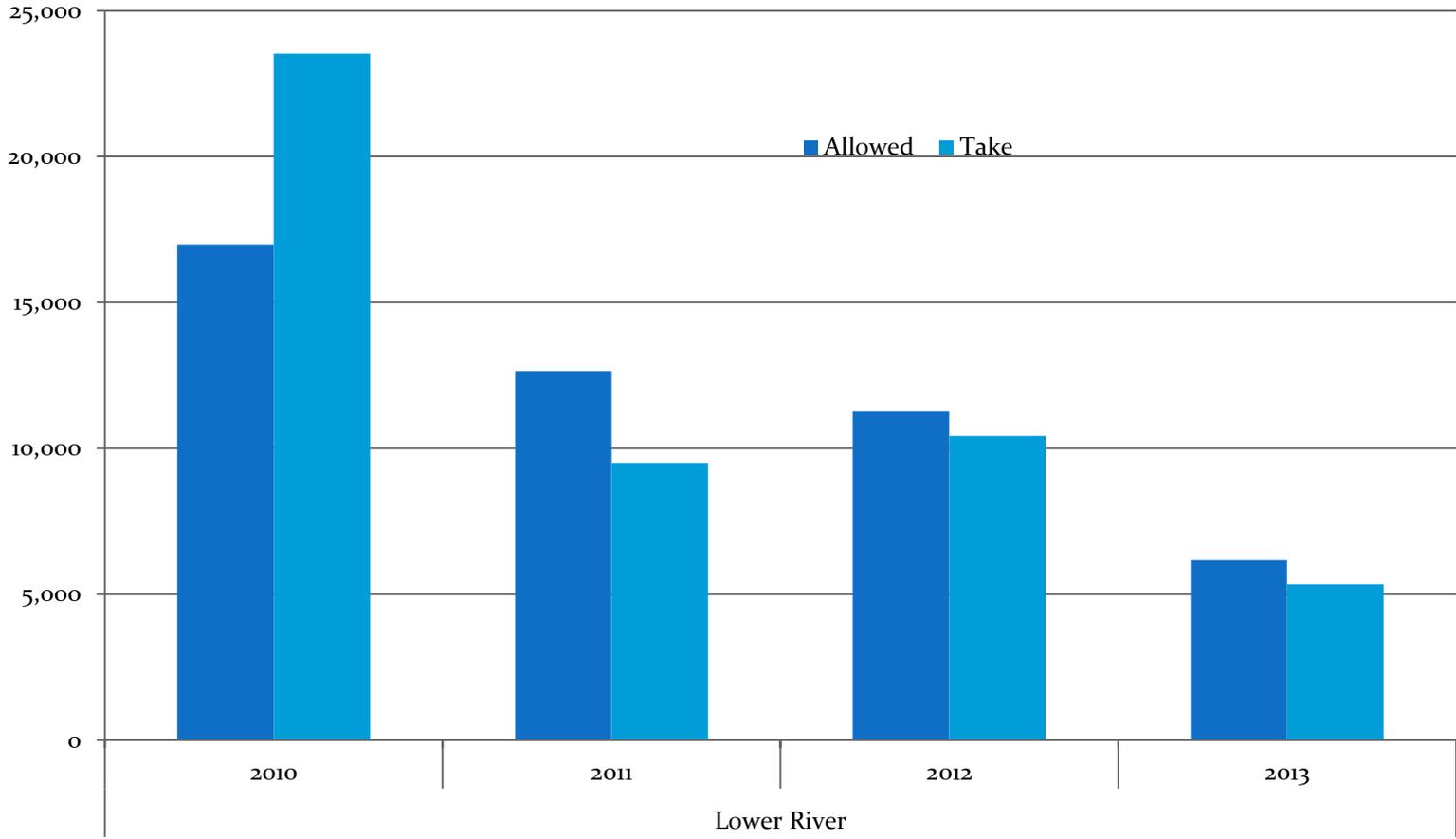
* Remember ESA could be more constraining than allowed CB

POST Season ACTUAL Catch Balance for Adult Upriver Adult Upriver Spring Chinook in Non-Indian Fisheries

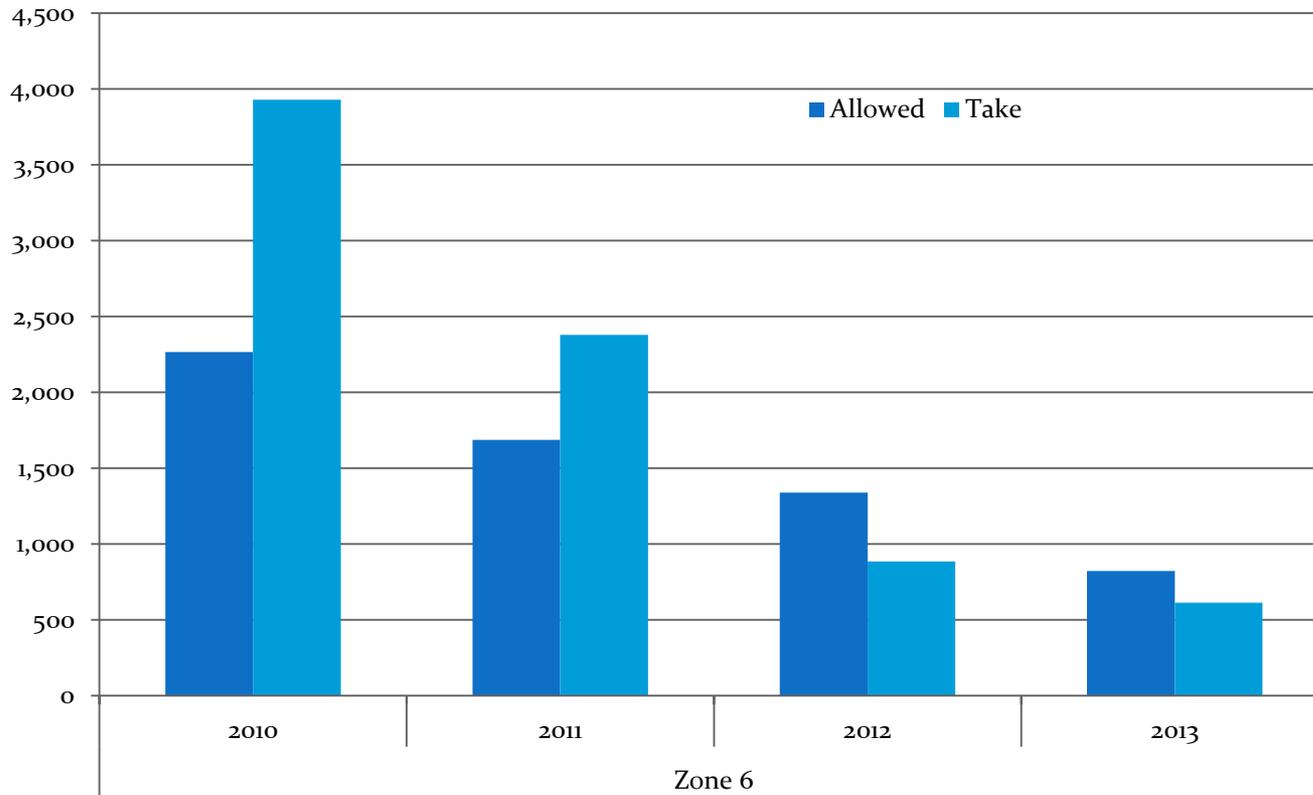
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	7,458	3,411	4,269	1,498
SAF Commercial Winter/Spring	1,475	295	327	259
Commercial Total	8,933	3,706	4,596	1,757
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	23,535	9,506	10,422	5,343
Bonneville to McNary Rec	3,930	2,379	886	613
Snake River Spt/Wanapum Tribal	2,110	1,953	2,317	374
Recreational Total	29,575	13,838	13,625	6,330
Total take	38,508	17,544	18,221	8,087

Includes kept and released mortalities of adults only.

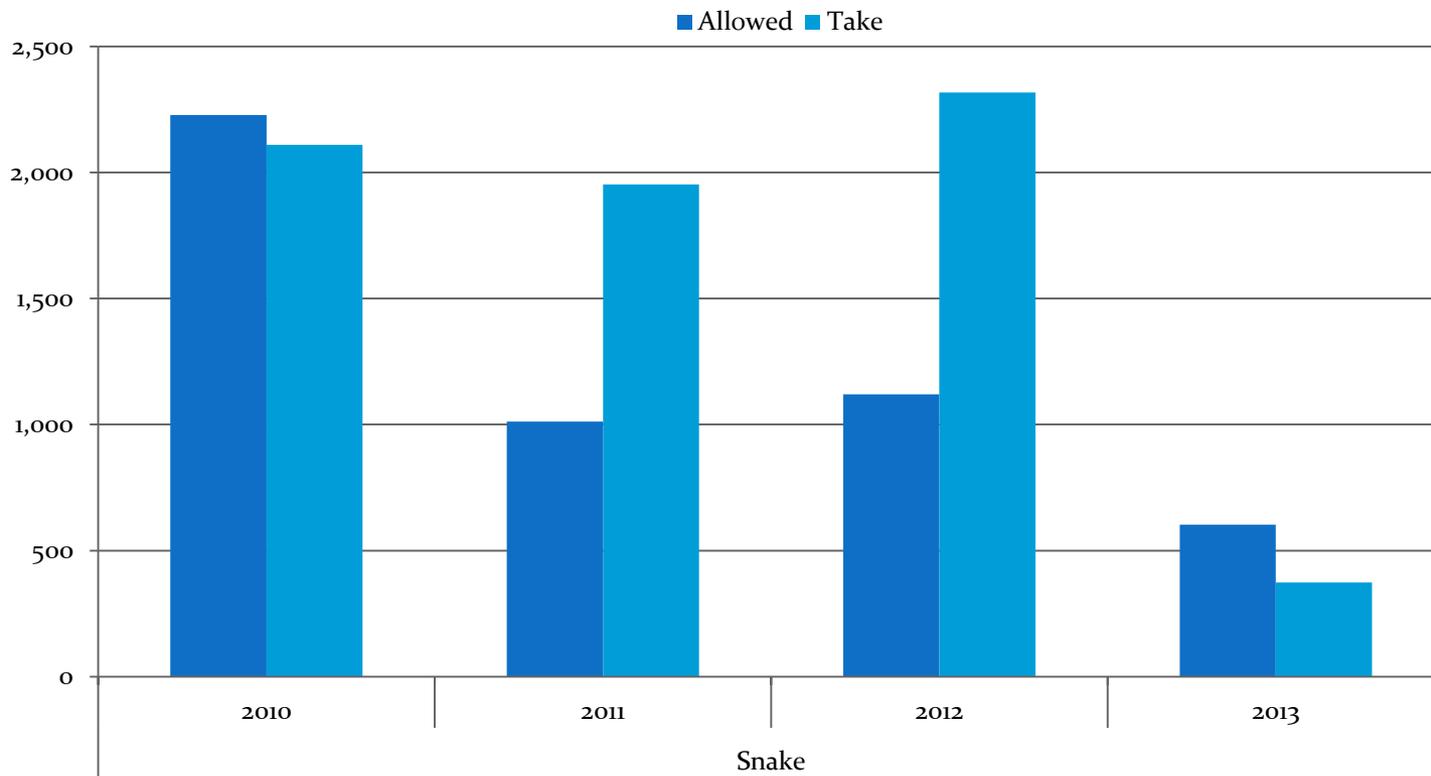
Lower Columbia Sport Catch Balance Allowed and Actual



Zone 6 Sport Catch Balance Allowed and Actual



Snake River Sport Allowed Catch Balance and Actual



Sub-allocation Advisory Group

- A Recreational Sub-Allocation Advisory Group, consisting of representatives from the three geographic areas of the fishery was formed to review past performance of the fishery, harvest shares, and discuss potential options for change in the current management structure.

The Process

- August 2012: The Director and staff met with constituents in Walla Walla.
- January 2013: Staff met with constituents in Dayton.
- January 2013: Issue presented to the Col. R. Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG).
- September 2013: First meeting of Columbia River Sub-allocation Advisory Group.
- January 2014: Second meeting of Columbia River Sub-allocation Advisory Group.
- January 2014: Results from the Sub-allocation group meetings are presented to the (CRRAG).

Alternative Allocation Analyses

- The WDFW and ODFW staff analyzed alternative allocation options proposed by members of the Sub-allocation Advisory Group.
- Staff also analyzed one additional alternative allocation option based on relieving the Snake fishery from the catch balance limitation.

Salmon Policy Allocation Change in 2014

	2013 Allocation	2014 Allocation	Difference
Lower River Sport	13,731	14,192	461
Zone 6 Sport	1,831	1,892	61
Snake River Sport	1,402	1,449	47

Based on an upriver return of 220,000 spring chinook.

60/40 Catch Sharing

Analysis requested from eastern WA representatives

	2013 Allocation	2014 Allocation	Adjusted Allocation	Net Difference
Lower River Sport	13,731	14,192	10,961	-3,091
Zone 6 Sport	1,831	1,892	3654	1,823
Snake River Sport	1,402	1,449	3654	2,252

Based on an upriver return of 220,000 spring chinook.

Under this scenario, a total of 3,552 fish allocated to the LCR sport would be transferred to fisheries above Bonneville Dam.

Sharing Based On Effort

Analysis requested by lower river representatives

	2013 Allocation	2014 Allocation	Adjusted Allocation	Net Difference
Lower River Sport	13,731	14,192	16,021	2,290
Zone 6 Sport	1,831	1,892	686	-1,145
Snake River Sport	1,402	1,449	927	-475

Based on an upriver return of 220,000 spring chinook.

Under this scenario, a total of 1,620 fish allocated to the sport fishery above Bonneville Dam would be transferred to the LCR sport fishery.

Snake River Harvests Full ESA Allocation

WDFW staff analysis

	2013 Allocation	2014 Allocation	Adjusted Allocation	Net Difference
Lower River Sport	13,731	14,192	13,668	-63
Zone 6 Sport	1,831	1,892	2,104	273
Snake River Sport	1,402	1,449	1,761	359

Based on an upriver return of 220,000 spring chinook.

Under this scenario, a total of 524 fish allocated to the LCR sport would be transferred to fisheries above Bonneville Dam.

Maximum Harvest Given All of the Sport Allocation

	ESA Limit	Catch Balance Limit
Lower River Sport	25,256	17,568
Zone 6 Sport	25,256	17,568
Snake River Sport	12,890	NA

Based on an upriver return of 220,000 spring chinook.

Feedback on Alternatives

- Lower river representatives were concerned that the alternatives that shift allocation above Bonneville Dam result in loss of all fish gained in the lower river from the recent policy change in sport/commercial allocation, whereas the status quo distributes those fish gained to the recreational fishery throughout the basin.
- The alternative that re-aligned allocation with Spring Chinook effort was not supported as it re-distributed fish from above Bonneville Dam to below Bonneville Dam recreational fisheries, reducing opportunity upstream of Bonneville Dam.

No Consensus

- The Sub-Allocation Advisory Group was unable to reach consensus on options that change the current sharing of the recreational spring Chinook harvest.
- The CRRAG discussed the options in January and did not support an allocation or management change from status quo.
- ODFW has also expressed support for continuing the status quo.

Summary

- The recreational and commercial fisheries have remained within ESA limits
- Since 2010, a 30% buffer has assisted in fairly distributing the recreational allocation
- Individual fisheries do not always attain their full catch allocation, primarily due to run-timing and river conditions
- There is no consensus for changing the current recreational spring Chinook allocation formula
- All recreational fishing areas will gain fish in 2014 due to increase in the sport allocation

Questions?



Snake River Spring Chinook Fishery